

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 03016 291339Z

56

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01

/030 W

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R 291043Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2388

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 3016

FOR USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH FROM THE AMBASSADOR

BAMAKO, NIAMEY, NOUAKCHOTT, NDJAMENA FOR THE AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, AMGT, APER, US. UV

SUBJ: RESIGNATION OF PAO

REF: OUAGA 2865 (NOTAL)

1. RESIGNATION FROM FOREIGN SERVICE OF PAO PAUL ALTEMUS WAS A DEEP BLOW TO ME PERSONALLY. ALTEMUS HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. UNDOUBTEDLY THERE WERE OTHER REASONS FOR HIS DECISION TO RESIGN BUT ONE OF THEM CERTAINLY WAS HIS FEELING THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD HE WORKED HE STILL COULD NOT FIND THE TIME TO DO SOME OF THE THINGS HE CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF HIS JOB.

2. I FRANKLY CANNOT SEE HOW ONE AMERICAN, WITH A POORLY TRAINED LOCAL STAFF, CAN BE EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH USIS. PERHAPS THIS WAS POSSIBLE WHEN OUAGADOUGOU WAS A SLEEPY LITTLE POST BUT, NOW THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 03016 291339Z

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO A LONG-TERM

PROGRAM OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAHEL, IT JUST CANNOT BE DONE. I AM SIGNING NEW AID PROJECTS ALL THE TIME AND THESE HAVE TO BE GIVEN ADEQUATE PUBLICITY. OUR INCREASED ACTIVITIES HERE HAVE ALSO RESULTED IN GREATER EMPHASIS ON OUR CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND THIS HAS ADDED TO THE WORKLOAD OF THE PAO. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RECENT EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY HAS MEANT KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF UPPER VOLTA INFORMED OF U.S. POLICIES AND SOME OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PAO. FINALLY, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO GIVE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY TO THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND AGAIN THE PAO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS UNDERTAKING.

3. I THINK THE TIME HAS COME TO ADD A SECOND AMERICAN POSITION IN THE PAO'S OFFICE IN OUAGADOUGOU. PERHAPS OTHER MISSION IN THE SAHEL HAVE HAD SIMILAR PROBLEMS. I SIMPLY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE NEW PAO, NO MATTER HOW COMPETENT, CAN HANDLE THE JOB, PROPERLY WITHOUT AN AMERICAN ASSISTANT.

4. STATE, AID AND ACTION/PEACE CORPS HAVE ALL RESPONDED TO THE NEW USG EMPHASIS ON THE SAHEL BY PROVIDING MORE FUNDS AND MORE PEOPLE. I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT IT IS TIME FOR USIA TO FOLLOW SUIT.
GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OUAGAD03016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760367-0887
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976097/aaaaafxk.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OUAGADOUGOU 2865
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESIGNATION OF PAO
TAGS: SOPN, AMGT, APER, US, UV, (ALEMUS, PAUL)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006